

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:
 - providing an adhesive gel material, said adhesive gel material including semi-solid particles within and further forming a membrane surface;
 - applying said adhesive gel material to at least a portion of a first side of a semiconductor wafer having first and second sides, the particles ~~forming a structure to~~ substantially preventing the membrane surface from collapsing when a vacuum suction is applied to the first side of the semiconductor wafer, ~~thus releasing the semiconductor wafer so that the semiconductor wafer is released;~~
 - positioning the semiconductor wafer onto a platform with the first side facing the platform and with the adhesive gel material between the first side and the platform to allow the adhesive gel material to hold the semiconductor wafer to the platform;
 - grinding the second side of the semiconductor wafer; and
 - allowing the adhesive gel material to release the semiconductor wafer, substantially free of the adhesive gel material, from the platform.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said allowing the adhesive gel material to hold the semiconductor wafer to the platform comprises using an adhesive property of the adhesive gel material to hold the semiconductor wafer to the platform.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said positioning the semiconductor wafer onto the platform includes positioning the semiconductor onto a platform having a vacuum, and wherein said using the adhesive property to hold the

semiconductor wafer to the platform includes holding the semiconductor wafer in position using the adhesive gel material with the vacuum substantially turned off.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said using the adhesive property to hold the semiconductor wafer to the platform includes providing substantial surface contact between the adhesive gel material and the first side of the semiconductor wafer.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said allowing the adhesive gel material to release the semiconductor wafer from the platform includes applying a vacuum to the gel material to substantially pull the adhesive gel material off the first side of the semiconductor wafer.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said applying the adhesive gel material to at least a portion of the first side of the semiconductor wafer includes applying the adhesive gel material to an upper surface of an un-diced semiconductor wafer.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising after grinding the second side of the semiconductor wafer:
washing the semiconductor wafer;
mounting the semiconductor wafer; and
dicing the semiconductor wafer.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising prior to applying the adhesive gel material to the first side of the semiconductor wafer, cutting and severing the semiconductor wafer into a plurality of portions with the portions remaining proximally disposed to each other as if the semiconductor wafer had not been cut, and wherein said applying the adhesive gel material to the first side of the

semiconductor wafer includes applying the adhesive gel material to the first side of the as-if-uncut semiconductor wafer.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising after grinding the second side of the as-if-uncut semiconductor wafer, mounting the grinded as-if-uncut semiconductor wafer.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said applying the adhesive gel material to the first side of the semiconductor wafer includes applying the adhesive gel material to an upper surface of a selected one of flip chip bump wafer and non-bump wafer.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said applying the adhesive gel material to the first side of the semiconductor wafer includes applying the adhesive gel material to an upper surface of a semiconductor wafer having surface structures.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said applying the adhesive gel material to an upper surface of a semiconductor wafer having surface structures includes applying the adhesive gel material to an upper surface of a semiconductor wafer having bumps.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said applying the adhesive gel material to an upper surface of a semiconductor wafer having surface

structures includes applying the adhesive gel material to an upper surface of a semiconductor wafer having electronic circuitry.

16. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

providing an adhesive gel material, said adhesive gel material including semi-solid particles within and further forming a membrane surface;

applying said gel material to a first side of a semiconductor wafer, having a first side, a second side, and one or more surface structures disposed thereon, to provide substantial surface contact between the gel material and the surface structures on the first side, the particles ~~forming a structure to~~ substantially preventing the membrane surface from collapsing when a vacuum suction is applied to the first side of the semiconductor wafer, ~~thus releasing the semiconductor wafer so that the semiconductor wafer is released;~~

placing the semiconductor wafer on a vacuum chuck with the first side facing the vacuum chuck and with the gel material between the wafer and the vacuum chuck;

grinding the second side while using the gel material to hold the semiconductor wafer against the vacuum chuck; and

removing the semiconductor wafer, substantially free of the adhesive gel material, from the vacuum chuck by reducing surface contact between the gel material and the surface structures.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said applying the gel material to the first side of the semiconductor wafer includes applying the gel material to a surface of a selected one of a flip-chip bump wafer and a non-bump wafer.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said applying the gel material to the first side of the semiconductor wafer includes applying the gel material to a semiconductor wafer having electronic circuitry.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said applying the gel material to the first side of the semiconductor wafer includes applying the gel material to a semiconductor wafer having bumps.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said reducing surface contact between the gel material and the surface structures includes activating the vacuum chuck.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said applying the gel material to the first side of the wafer includes applying a semi-solid material to an upper surface of the wafer, the semi-solid material capable of preventing substantial collapse of the gel material into the vacuum chuck.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising after removing the semiconductor wafer from the vacuum chuck:

- washing the semiconductor wafer;
- mounting the semiconductor wafer; and
- dicing the semiconductor wafer.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising prior to applying the gel material to the first side of the semiconductor wafer, dicing the semiconductor wafer, the dicing being performed in a manner that allows the dice to remain proximally disposed to each other as semiconductor wafer had not been cut, and wherein said applying the adhesive gel material to the first side of the semiconductor wafer includes applying the adhesive gel material to the first side of the as-if-undiced semiconductor wafer.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said dicing the semiconductor wafer includes cutting the semiconductor wafer to a depth deeper than a final desired depth of the semiconductor wafer.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising using a vacuum transfer device to transfer the semiconductor wafer from the vacuum chuck onto a surface for mounting.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said grinding the second side of the semiconductor wafer while using the adhesive gel material to hold the wafer against the vacuum chuck includes absorbing at least some of a grinding force applied to the second side of the semiconductor wafer.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)